



Exempt Action Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Virginia Department of Health
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	12VAC5-590
Regulation title	Commonwealth of Virginia <i>Waterworks Regulations</i>
Action title	These revisions and additions will bring the <i>Waterworks Regulations</i> into compliance with the federal <i>National Primary Drinking Water Regulations</i> for the Ground Water Rule: Final Rule, promulgated by EPA on November 8, 2006.
Final agency action date	September 24, 2011
Document preparation date	August 30, 2011

When a regulatory action is exempt from executive branch review pursuant to § 2.2-4002 or § 2.2-4006 of the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), the agency is encouraged to provide information to the public on the Regulatory Town Hall using this form.

Note: While posting this form on the Town Hall is optional, the agency must comply with requirements of the Virginia Register Act, Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Summary

These additions and revisions to the *Waterworks Regulations* will reduce the risk to fecal contamination that may be present in waterworks that use groundwater sources.

Most cases of waterborne disease are characterized by gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, etc.) that are frequently self-limiting in healthy individuals and rarely require medical treatment. However, these same symptoms are much more serious and can be fatal for persons in sensitive subpopulations (such as young children, the elderly, and persons with compromised immune systems).

Increased public health protection is provided by these additions and revisions in the following ways:

- (1) Periodic sanitary surveys of groundwater source waterworks that require the evaluation of eight critical elements and the identification of significant deficiencies.
- (2) Source water monitoring to test for the presence of *E. coli*.

- (3) Corrective actions required for any waterworks with a significant deficiency or source water *E. coli* contamination.
- (4) Compliance monitoring to ensure that treatment technology installed to treat drinking water achieves at least 99.99 percent inactivation or removal of viruses.

Statement of final agency action

On September 24, 2011, the State Health Commissioner, vested with the authority of the State Board of Health pursuant to Section 32.1-20 of the *Code of Virginia*, adopted final amendments to the *Waterworks Regulations* 12VAC5-590-10, *et seq.*

Family impact

The provision of safe drinking water to the consumer's tap will increase economic self-sufficiency of the family by making this precious resource healthier for the consumer. Additionally, increased consumer protection from waterborne disease will minimize lost productivity and lost personal income.